

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for multiplexing data packets comprising steps of:
 - receiving a plurality of data packets to produce a plurality of received data packets, wherein each received data packet of the plurality of received data packets comprises a routing address that is associated with one or more of network layer routing information and transport layer routing information;
 - determining an address label for each received data packet based on the data packet's routing address, wherein the address label provides one or more of network layer routing information and transport layer routing information;
 - for each data packet of the plurality of received data packets, deleting the routing address from the data packet and adding the address label determined for each received the data packet to the data packet to produce a modified data packet;
 - multiplexing the modified data packets; and
 - wrapping the multiplexed data packets with a new data transmission header comprising link layer routing information for the multiplexed data packets to produce a data transmission unit.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the data transmission header comprises a transport layer header.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the new data transmission header comprises a multi-protocol address label switching (MPLS) header.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising a step of routing the multiplexed data packets based on the added data transmission header.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein a received data packet of the plurality of received data packets is formatted based on a different network layer or transport layer data transmission protocol than another received data packet of the plurality of received data packets.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising a step of creating a connection table that comprises the routing address of each received data packet and the address label corresponding to each routing address.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for point-to-point transmission of data comprising steps of:

receiving, by a data transmitting device, a plurality of data packets to produce a plurality of received data packets, wherein each received data packet of the plurality of received data packets comprises a routing address that is associated with one or more of network layer routing information and transport layer routing information;

determining, by the data transmitting device, an address label for each received data packet based on the data packet's routing address, wherein the address label provides one or more of network layer routing information and transport layer routing information;

for each data packet of the plurality of received data packets, deleting, by the data transmitting device, the data packet's routing address from the data packet and adding, by the data transmitting device, the address label determined for ~~each received~~ the data packet to the data packet to produce a modified data packet;

multiplexing, by the data transmitting device, the modified data packets;

adding, by the data transmitting device, a data transmission header to the multiplexed data packets that includes link layer routing information for the multiplexed data packets to produce a data transmission unit; and

transmitting, by the data transmitting device, the data transmission unit to a data receiving device.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising steps of:
- receiving the data transmission unit by the data receiving device;
 - extracting, by the data receiving device, the modified data packets from the data transmission unit; and
 - routing, by the data receiving device, each modified data packet based on the routing address corresponding to the data packet's address label.
12. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising steps of:
- deleting, by the data receiving device, the address label from each modified data packet; and
 - adding, by the data receiving device to each modified data packet, the routing address corresponding to the modified data packet's address label.
13. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising a step of creating a connection table that comprises the routing address of each received data packet and the address label corresponding to each routing address.
14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the connection table is created by the data transmitting device and conveyed by the data transmitting device to the data receiving device.
15. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein the step of routing each modified data packet comprises a step of routing, by the data receiving device, each modified data packet by reference to the connection table.
16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein a received data packet of the plurality of received data packets is formatted based on a different network layer or transport layer data transmission protocol than another received data packet of the plurality of received data packets.
17. (Original) The method of claim 9, further comprising steps of:
- receiving a data transmission unit;

determining a routing address of each modified data packet included in the data transmission unit based on the modified data packet's address label; and

forwarding each modified data packet based on the determined routing address.

18. (Currently Amended) A data transmitting device for transmitting multiplexed data packets, the data transmitting device comprising:

a receiving unit that receives a plurality of data packets to produce a plurality of received data packets, wherein each received data packet of the plurality of received data packets comprises a routing address that is associated with one or more of network layer routing information and transport layer routing information;

a processor coupled to the data receiving unit that determines an address label for each received data packet based on the data packet's routing address, wherein the address label provides one or more of network layer routing information and transport layer routing information, for each received data packet, deletes the data packet's routing address from the data packet and adds the address label determined for ~~each received~~ the data packet to the data packet to produce a modified data packet, multiplexes the modified data packets, and wraps the multiplexed data packets with a new data transmission header comprising link layer routing information for the multiplexed data packets to produce a data transmission unit; and

a transmitting unit coupled to the processor that transmits the data transmission unit.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Original) The data transmission device of claim 18, wherein the processor further determines a data transmission header for the multiplexed data packets and adds the data transmission header to the multiplexed data packets.

21. (Original) The data transmission device of claim 18, wherein the processor further creates a connection table that comprises the routing address of each received data packet and the address label corresponding to each routing address.

22. (Original) The data transmission device of claim 21, wherein the transmitting unit transmits the connection table to a data receiving device.

23. (Currently Amended) A data receiving device for receiving a data transmission unit comprising a plurality of multiplexed data packets, the data receiving device comprising:

a receiving unit that receives the data transmission unit based on a link layer data transmission header that wraps the multiplexed data packets, wherein each data packet of the multiplexed data packets comprises an address label that provides one or more of network layer routing information and transport layer routing information; and

a processor coupled to the receiving unit that extracts a plurality of data packets from the data transmission unit, determines one or more of a network layer and a transport layer routing address for each data packet of the plurality of data packets based on the address label, deletes the address label from and adds the determined one or more of a network layer and a transport layer routing address to each data packet of the plurality of data packets, and routes each data packet based on the data packet's determined routing address.

24. (Original) The data receiving device of claim 23, further comprising a memory coupled to the processor that stores a connection table comprising at least one address label and a routing address corresponding to the at least one address label, and wherein the processor determines a routing address for each data packet by reference to the connection table.

25. (Original) The data receiving device of claim 23, wherein the data transmission unit further comprises a data transmission header corresponding to the data receiving device.